

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, after yesterday's action here on the House floor, we have sent not one, but two real solutions to this debt and spending crisis over to the Senate.

The Senate has yet to take action on anything. The President refuses to even submit a plan to solve this problem. All we hear from the President are these divisive class warfare speeches. A speech is not a solution to the problem, especially when you hear of all this foolishness about corporate jet owners and millionaires and billionaires. If the President got his way, if the President confiscated every dollar from corporate jet owners and millionaires and billionaires, he himself knows that wouldn't solve the problem.

And yet what you have is a spending problem in Washington. You don't solve a spending problem by sending even more spending to Washington so that they can blow even more money. What we actually need to do is not a balanced approach, we need a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution, so that you can finally invoke accountability in Washington to solve the spending problem.

Job-killing taxes, more tax increases that only gives Washington more money to spend. Instead of facing the problem, we have got to stop ignoring the problem. The President needs to get his head out of the sand and address the real spending crisis in Washington.

#### DEBT LIMIT

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, last night the Republican majority in this House, without the support of a single Democrat, did something very dangerous—and I am not talking about the pernicious cuts that would damage the least fortunate in our society. I am not talking about an ill-conceived balanced budget amendment that would surely result in our default. We should debate those things, and people of good will disagree how we do them.

I am talking about the provision of that bill that will bring us back in 6 months to have this discussion again while Americans lose billions of dollars in their retirement accounts, while businesses and our markets face uncertainty. We will do this in 6 more months because of the Republicans.

Now I am a House Democrat. Don't listen to me on this. Listen to the Wall Street Journal editorial page. That Murdochian mouthpiece of malicious malarkey wrote, "Republicans are not looking like adults to whom voters can entrust the government."

Mr. Speaker, according to the Wall Street Journal editorial page, that's just the way it is.

#### AVOID GOVERNMENT DEFAULT

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to offer this House a plan on how Republicans and Democrats can come together, avoid a government default, and do it in a way that really helps the American people. Let's cut the true debt that's crushing Americans today—and it's not the Federal debt.

Americans are underwater on their mortgages, burdened by student loans, maxed out on credit cards. If we help Americans cut their own personal debt, this will free up money where people can responsibly buy things. Businesses will have to hire more people. That's how you create more jobs—by helping Americans become debt-free.

#### LIFT THE DEBT CEILING

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning we join together to express our commitment to one Nation. Unfortunately, we are in a collapse and a crisis because we are, as my good friend from Michigan said, drawn and strangled by those in the Tea Party who believe that America belongs to only one group.

Well, I stand here today to say that we must not take the Tea Party's words that say "do not surrender." That is a selfish position. You do not play surrender games when you work on behalf of the American people. You wonder why the economy is slow? Because it is strangled by inertia and lack of action in raising the debt ceiling. Let's join together in a bipartisan way to lift the debt ceiling. If not, the President has constitutional authority to lift the debt ceiling and get Members to move forward and on helping this country protect the 401(k)s, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we are one Nation, not the Tea Party nation. We should represent the people of the United States in creating jobs, we can move the economy, and we can show the world that America is run by adults and we stand for the American people.

I believe I stand for one Nation and to represent all of the people.

#### LIFE IMITATES ART

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, sometimes art imitates life. Sometimes life imitates art. I think today life is imitating art.

I often reflect on motion pictures and learn from them. When I came up here, it was "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

But currently, watching this, I have been thinking about "Blazing Saddles." Remember Mel Brooks and Rich-

ard Pryor, they did a movie. They had a city called Rock Ridge, an all-white city, lawless, problems. The governor appointed a handsome, sharp, young, black man to be the sheriff, the first black sheriff ever in Rock Ridge.

He went there and he wanted the townsfolk to help him prepare to beat off the thugs and have a better city. They didn't want to join him. He said, "You'd do it for Randolph Scott." They would have done it for Randolph Scott, and realizing that, they helped Cleavon Little, the sheriff.

The Republicans, well, they'd do it for George Bush, and they did it for George Bush a lot. Mr. Speaker, life imitates art.

#### LET'S GET BACK TO WORK

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on August 3 the United States will have \$306 billion in obligations and \$173 billion to address those obligations. At that moment, if the debt ceiling is not raised, our Nation for the first time in its history will default on its obligations.

The cost of borrowing for small business, home mortgages, student and auto loans will all increase. This will hit hard every American and could push this economy into another recession. The American people want a serious and balanced approach to avoid disaster and deal with our Nation's debt problem. They want Congress to work in a bipartisan way to create jobs and new business investment.

The House Republicans' short-term bill does nothing to create economic certainty necessary for sustained economic growth. Instead, it will keep the threat of default alive for months as a continuing drag on this economy. We need a real long-term bill to provide economic stability and certainty. We need a balanced bill that protects Social Security and Medicare, and we need a bipartisan bill we can pass quickly to prevent default.

□ 1230

#### THE BALL IS IN THE SENATE'S COURT

(Mr. WOODALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful. I hustled over here this morning because I heard there was a question about what kind of options have we provided for the United States Senate and what can we do to get America out of this crisis, and I know the answer.

We've got lots of choices on their desk, Mr. Speaker, and if you talk to them, I hope you'll recommend these. Just look on the desk in front of them; they've got three good choices. You want a long-term solution to this challenge? Ten years. Look at the House